



Greetings from the Virginia Primary Care Office & the State Office of Rural Health!

Community Spotlight

Southside VA AHEC Health Careers Summer Camp

Session 1: June 21-24 and Session 2: July 12-15



The Southside VA Area Health Education Center; a division of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center will be hosting a 4-day virtual summer health careers camp for 9-12 grade high school students to engage in an enriching summer health careers camp that will allow them to make a well-informed decision about going into a health career of their choice. The camp is limited to 25 each session. Session 1 will be held June 21-24 and Session 2 will be held July 12-15.

[For More Information and to Register](#)

If your organizations would like to be featured in our VA-SORH bi-weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and website please fill out the following [Google form](#).

Updated COVID-19 Resources

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 Vaccination Resources



- [Vaccinate Virginia](#)- to find a vaccine near you
- Sign up for [Vaccinate Virginia Partner Updates](#)
- Become a 2021 [VDH Community Ambassador](#)
- [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- Find out which phase of the vaccination campaign you fall in
- Contact your Local Health District

COVID-19 Communications Materials

- "The Best Ways for Employers to Promote COVID-19 Vaccines ([download here](#))
- "About the Three COVID-19 Vaccines" Graphic ([download here](#))
- [The Language of Vaccine Acceptance](#) by de Beaumont
- Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)- [Misinformation Alerts](#)
- Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC)- [Communications Resources](#)
- [CDC Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- Downloadable [VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education Materials](#)
- HHS Launches [COVID-19 Community Corps](#) - a nationwide network of trusted voices to encourage vaccination in next phase of COVID-19 public education campaign
- PHCC [Updated "Tough Q&A"](#) with helpful messaging following the FDA and CDC's decision to resume the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine
- PHCC webinar [Summer travel and COVID-19: Safety messaging that will inform and motivate](#) on May 13, 2021 at 1 PM ET
- **NEW** [Rural Community Toolkit](#) to build vaccine confidence and promote preventive measures

- **NEW** Case Study: Successful COVID-19 Messaging in Rural Communities- presentation slides

Additional COVID-19 Resources

- CDC National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems
- COVID-19 FAQs and Funding for HRSA Programs
- ACL Strategies for Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Access COVID-19 Vaccines
- **NEW** NIH Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities
- **NEW** Facts about COVID-19 care for the uninsured
- **NEW** HRSA COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF)
- **NEW** GHPC's Collection of Rural Health Strategies for COVID-19

Information & Resources for Providers & Healthcare Facilities

Comments Requested: Proposed Changes to Medicare Payments to Hospitals

CMS.gov

Deadline: June 28, 2021 by 5 PM ET

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released proposed updates to how Medicare reimburses acute care hospitals, Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals, and Critical Access Hospitals. There are proposals on how to implement new Graduate Medicare Education (GME) provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, including how to distribute additional GME slots for rural residency training programs. The proposed rule also includes two Requests for Information: one on ways to attain health equity for all patients, and the other on the use of Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards to digitally submit quality information.

[For More Information and to Participate](#)

FCC Announces the Start Date of Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced May 12, 2021 as the start date for eligible households to enroll in the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The EBB program lowers the cost of high-speed internet service to ensure people have the connectivity they need during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. EBB provides a monthly discount of up to \$50, and up to \$75 a month for tribal households, for the cost of broadband service from approved providers. The program will also offer a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a computer or tablet for eligible households.



[For More Information](#)

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Private Health Insurance, Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare Provisions

Provides an overview of the provisions of the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* that relate to private health insurance, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare. Includes information on provisions specific to rural providers.

To View the Document

Register now for the 2021 Virginia Health Care Conference

June 3, 2021 from 10 AM - 12:30 PM ET



Virtual Conference Registration price is \$45. The Virginia Chamber Foundation is pleased to present the 2021 Virginia Health Care Conference.

Business and healthcare leaders will discuss how we can look beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and make Virginia more economically competitive by addressing the needs of our workforce and providing greater equity in health care.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in polling for *Blueprint Virginia 2030 – A Business Plan for the Commonwealth* and help set the policy goals for Virginia's health care future. This plan will be presented to our next Governor following the November election. Please join us in developing a plan for Virginia's health care future and make sure your voice is heard!

For More Information and to Register



Register now for NRHA's Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences

September 21 - 24, 2021

Registration is now open, so take advantage of the educational and networking opportunities designed for clinic and hospital professionals and board members serving rural America. Register for both events to save \$100 on your total registration cost. NRHA members save \$100 more on each event, while those who have never been an NRHA member will receive a complimentary one-year NRHA membership. NRHA is still accepting presentation submissions for our 2021 RHC and CAH events through June 2. All speakers receive a discounted registration fee.

To Register

Critical Access Hospital Response to COVID-19 - Webinar Presentation Slides



Webinar recording summarizing results of a survey of Critical Access Hospital (CAH) executives in eight states regarding the hospitals' ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic from February-August 2020. Covers survey findings related to CAH finance, federal waivers and regulatory flexibilities, capacity for treatment, workforce, and partnerships. Discusses opportunities for future research on COVID-19 response and preparedness for future disasters and public health emergencies.

To View the Presentation



United Way of
Southwest Virginia

Save the date for UWSWVA's "The Rural Resilience Summit"

October 28, 2021

This important event will identify resources and best practices and focus on creating equitable systems for tomorrow's workforce in Rural Appalachia.

United Way is now seeking sponsors and partners for this impactful event. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor or partner, please contact Mary Anne Holbrook at mholbrook@unitedwayswva.org.

Check out the RCORP-TA Newsletter

In this newsletter you will have the opportunity to learn more about your fellow grantees, HRSA Project Officers, JBS Technical Expert Leads, and the Best Practice of the Month! Periodically, this newsletter will also highlight funding opportunities, upcoming events, and other helpful resources. For additional information on other grantees and to access previous newsletters and resources, please visit the RCORP-TA Portal here: <https://www.rcorp-ta.org/>.

[To View the Newsletter](#)



FDA Approves Higher Dosage of Naloxone to Treat Opioid Overdose

Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a higher dose nasal spray that deliver 8 milligrams (mg) of naloxone into the nasal cavity. The FDA had previously approved 2 mg and 4 mg nasal sprays.

[To View the News Release](#)

State & Regional Resources & Funding Opportunities

VDH OHE Nursing Scholarship application cycle is open NOW

Application Deadline: June 30, 2021



Virginia offers several scholarship opportunities to help pay for nursing education in exchange for service in Virginia after graduation. Scholarships are available for students enrolled in an approved nurse education program in Virginia. The program must prepare them for examination for licensure as a: Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Certified Nursing Aides. Scholarships are for students enrolled at an accredited program in the state of Virginia.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

[To View Program Flyer](#)

COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF)

HRSA will provide claims reimbursement to eligible health care providers at the national Medicare rate for administering Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized COVID-19 vaccines under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or FDA-licensed COVID-19 vaccines under a Biologics License Application (BLA) to underinsured individuals.

HRSA will be hosting an informational session **tomorrow, May 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM ET**. The provider webcast will present an overview of the enrollment, claims submission, and payment processes. Register [here](#).

[For More Information](#)



The application deadline for 3 2021 NHSC LRP programs has been **EXTENDED**

Extended Application Deadline: Thursday, May 27, 2021

The Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) opened its application for three loan repayment programs: the [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#), the [NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program](#) and the [NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program](#).

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

HRSA Expanding Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach

Application Deadline: May 18, 2021

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will make approximately 10 awards with total funding of \$125 million. The funding will support outreach, education and assistance related to the COVID-19 vaccine and go to public and/or private nonprofit organizations with demonstrated experience in public health programs across a broad geographic area. Applicants are expected to have partnerships with health and social service organizations that can directly hire community outreach workers from vulnerable, medically-underserved communities.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program

Application Deadline: July 30, 2021

Grants to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities, with a focus on helping them regain and/or maintain their independence to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues. Applicants from rural and other geographic areas that lack reliable internet access may request a waiver from the electronic submission requirement through HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development.



[For More Information and to Apply](#)



Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants

Application Deadline: June 4, 2021

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program

Application Deadline: June 15, 2021

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program builds the capacity of states, state and local courts, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments to implement new juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTCs) and enhance existing JDTCs for individuals with substance abuse problems or co-occurring mental health disorders, including histories of trauma.

[For More Information and to Apply](#)

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